

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Sir and Gentlemen,

STATISTICE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Population	Census 1921	:	3207	1936 Survey	:	3199
	" 1931	:	3364	1937 Estimated (R.G.)	:	3127

Rateable Value and sum represented by a Penny Rate respectively:-

£ 12,070                      and                      £ 50. 5.10d.

The occupations of the inhabitants are coalmining, farming and work in cotton and woollen mills for men, and work in the mills and firework manufactories for the women and girls. There is a considerable amount of homework making of cases for fireworks done by the women.

<u>Births</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>
Legitimate	16	23	39	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Total	16	23	39	12.8
Stillbirths - Legitimate	1	-		
Illegitimate	1	-	2	Rate
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
	19	25	44	14.5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births				77
"    from Cancer				7
"    "    Measles				0
"    "    Whooping Cough				1
"    "    Diarrhoea under 2 years				0
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births				0
from Puerperal Sepsis				0
"    other Puerperal Causes				0

Excluding 5 deaths from accident, Heart and Arterial Diseases (18) and Cancer (7) accounted for the bulk of the remainder. There were 2 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from Pneumonia.



10 of the deaths were of persons dying in institutions outside the district but normally living in the district, and 18 of the deaths were of persons 70 and upwards. The death rate 14.5 is comparable with 12.4 for England and Wales. The birth rate 12.8 is comparable with 14.9 for England and Wales. The Infantile mortality rate 77 is comparable with 58 for England and Wales. Excluding the deaths from accident the death rate would<sup>have</sup>/exactly equalled the birth rate, 12.8.

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health                      A.Tait, M.B.

Sanitary Inspector                              H.Pakos, M.I.H.E.

Laboratory Facilities. The W.R.C.C. Laboratory at Wakefield is used for bacteriological examinations.

Ambulance Facilities. There is a motor ambulance at Kirkburton for general and accident cases subsidized by the Local Authority, and a motor ambulance for infectious cases, clothing, bedding etc. at the Joint Isolation Hospital, Kirkburton.

Nursing in the Home. The Lepton District Nursing Association provide a Queens Nurse who also undertakes midwifery cases.

#### Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Child Welfare and Maternity Clinic held weekly at Ashfield, Lepton, under W.R.C.C.

Tuberculosis Clinic held Tuesday 2 - 5 p.m., Friday 2 - 4 p.m. at the Dispensary, Peel Street, Huddersfield, under W.R.C.C.

V.D.Clinic held at Huddersfield Infirmary 11 - 1 p.m. except Wednesday and 6 p.m. except Wednesday and Saturday.

#### Hospitals.

Tuberculosis - Patients are admitted to various Sanatoria provided by the W.R.C.C.

General and Children - Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Maternity - Abnormal midwifery cases are seen at the Huddersfield Infirmary Clinic and admitted if necessary. Normal midwifery cases can be admitted to the Huddersfield Borough Maternity Home at Greenhead, and Puerperal cases are admitted to the County Hospital, Wakefield.

Fever - Joint Isolation Hospital, Kirkburton (31 beds and cots) provided by 10 Urban Districts.

Smallpox - Hospital at Thorncliffe, Kirkburton, under Joint Isolation Hospital Committee, which Committee has now an agreement with Huddersfield Borough to deal with Smallpox cases in the Hospital area, as the hospital is too small, unsuitable and expensive to equip to deal with an occasional outbreak of Smallpox.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water. The area is supplied by the Huddersfield Corporation Waterworks. All houses are supplied inside. The quality was very muddy at times but this has been remedied to a great extent by the scraping of the mains, which operation caused restriction of the supply at times.





Drainage and Sewerage. The whole area, with the exception of Town End, Town Bottom and Low Town districts, which are inadequately sewerod, is connected with the outfall works at Tandem.

There have been no alterations or additions during the year except connections with new properties.

Rivers and Streams. There is practically no pollution of the small streams in the area.

Closet Accommodation. There are 514 W.C's, 386 privy middons and 32 tub closets. During the year 31 privies have been converted to W.C's and 2 additional W.C's provided to old property and 17 W.C's constructed for new property.

There is difficulty in getting conversions to W.C's carried out in spite of the Local Authority's offer of £3. per conversion. In recent years 111 closets have been converted to W.C's.

Public Cleansing. The scavenging has been done as previously by the Local Authority and has cost £413.

The amount of rubbish which should have been burnt collected from dust bins and middens is a disgrace to the district. I estimate roughly a third of this amount could and should be burnt. In the middens as a breeding place for flies is a distinct menace to health, particularly of the children, in the summer.

Smoke Abatement. No action has been taken or considered necessary on account of the small number of factory chimneys in the area.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

During the year ending 31st. December 1937 I made 2 routine and 8 special visits to the different sections of the district and found 18 Nuisances which I reported as follows:-

#### Schedule 1.

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Insufficient Ashpit or Dustbin | 11 Insanitary Privies                               |
| 1 Faulty Drain                   | 1 Decaying deposited garden refuse                  |
| 1 Broken Ashpit Door             | 1 Water in cellar                                   |
| 1 Smells from decomposed Rat     | 1 Deposit of refuse other than in Dustbin or Ashpit |

#### Schedule 2.

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Informal or Statutory Notices</u>		<u>Remedied</u>
1937	18	13	5	12
1936 outstanding	-	-	-	-
Totals	18	7	5	12
			Outstanding	
			1937	6
				<u>18</u>

There were 31 Privies reconstructed (converted) as W.C's during the year; 2 constructed as additional accommodation for existing properties; and 19 W.C's were provided for new properties, including 2 for the new Methodist Chapel.

1 Chomical closet was installed in place of a Privy and 2 earth closets were erected for old properties.



The district now has 512 W.C's, 1 Chemical Closet, 2 Waste-water Closets, 31 Tub Closets and 386 Privies.

The response to requests for Conversions is not very encouraging, but with the application of the Public Health Act, 1936, a greater number of Privies should be abolished.

In view of the procedure of this Act, the £3 grant was by resolution discontinued as from October 1st. 1937 for all new cases.

The registered Cowsheds have been visited by the Assistant County Veterinary Officer and myself, and on each occasion the general standard of cleanliness of the Cattle and Sheds was found to have been maintained.

One whole carcase of Beef and viscera was voluntarily surrendered to me for destruction, owing to generalised Tuberculosis, and the carcase was sent to the Huddersfield Destructor Works.

Fumigation of rooms was carried out by me for 12 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 cases of Diphtheria.

8 visits were made to inspect building foundations, 3 for the inspection of damp-proof course, 32 for drainage and 18 for general building inspection. One case of improper bonding was detected and had to be made good at some cost to the builder.

5 inspections were made for drain tests and 2 for sewer stoppage.

44 Housing Inspections were made, 32 for housing matters in respect of 26 houses, 23 of which were recorded. The number needing action was 24, together with 6 previously recorded. 15 were considered as dangerous to health and 15 as not in all respects reasonably habitable.

5 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders were made during the year.

3 houses were transferred to the County Borough of Huddersfield by an Order made under the Review of County Districts. 5 houses were demolished, 2 voluntarily and three by Orders, and 11 houses were closed owing to Closing and Demolition Orders.

12 houses were erected by the Local Authority and 4 by private enterprise, 1 being as a new Licensed House and 1 by the alteration of 1 large house into 2 houses.

The total number of houses in the district is 1003, of which 982 are classed as suitable for the working classes.

997 houses are supplied with water from a public supply, and 821 are connected to public sewers.

3 new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year, but 12 cases were abated, leaving 14 cases at the end of the year, and affecting 97 persons.

With the Council's projected Housing Programme, all these cases should be abated in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H.Pakes.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are none in the area.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. There have been no houses found infested. A vermicide Insecticide Sprayer is provided, and bedding, clothing etc. would be sent to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.





Schools. The two elementary schools in the area are in good sanitary condition. Visits have been paid by the M.O.H. on receipt of information from Head-teachers re suspects of contacts with infectious disease, and the child seen either at school or at home and the necessary action taken.

Housing. Appended is Table D.

Inspection and Supervision of Food. There is no public slaughterhouse in the district. The three registered slaughterhouses and one bakehouse are in a satisfactory condition.

One whole carcase of beef was surrendered to the Sanitary Inspector on account of generalized Tuberculosis and destroyed, and one cow was surrendered as a result of examination by the W.R.C.C. Veterinary Inspector.

There are 20 registered cowkeepers in the district and an average of 150 milking cows. Three reports of unclean milk were received concerning dealers supplying milk in the Huddersfield area. Your Inspector visited the farms concerned and there have been no further reports.

The W.R.C.C. Veterinary Inspector reports that the general cleanliness of cattle and premises is satisfactory.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases.

Except for Scarlet Fever of which there were 15 cases, there was little infectious disease in the district. Influenza was prevalent in the spring and accounted for 4 notifications of Pneumonia out of 5. There were a few cases of chicken pox in April.


The scarlet fever cases occurred in batches of 3 or 4 close together in January, February, March and November. These small outbreaks occurred in widely separated parts of the district and in children attending both schools, and no connection could be traced between them. All were removed to Hospital and none were return cases. As in previous years, when infectious disease occurs in school children frequent visits have been paid to the 2 elementary schools, and lists of doubtful absentees investigated.

There were no new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in the year and only one non-pulmonary case. There were two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, one in a miner who developed it secondarily to silicosis.

37 schoolchildren were immunized against diphtheria by the M.O.H. by arrangement with the W.R.C.C. A total of 208 children have been immunized in the last two years.

The Isolation Hospital Committee will admit cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenzal Pneumonia which cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home on the request of the M.O.H. for the district.

There were no vaccinations or re-vaccinations performed by the M.O.H. and there was no occasion to take action under the Public Health Act, 1925, Sec.62.



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# TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total notified</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	15	15	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	6	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-

## Age Groups for Scarlet Fever Cases.

Under 1 year	-
1 year	1
2 years	1
3 years	-
4 years	3
5 years	4
10 years	5
15 years	-
20 years	-
35 years	-
45 years	1
65 years	-

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New cases and Mortality during 1937.

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-

Yours obediently,

(Signed) A.Tait.

